

# From Taking Notice To Taking Action

**Tips for Effective Advocates** 

**lowans with Disabilities in Action** 



"It is easy to sit up & take notice. What is difficult is getting up and taking action!"



Honore de Balzac, writer

"We in America are not a government of the majority. We are a government of the majority who participate."

Thomas Jefferson



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YOU

Lobby

**Actual Voters** 

Registered Voters

Eligible Voters

**Total Population** 

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# **Barriers to Active Participation**













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# Where Do I Begin?



- **✓** Identify Your Cause
- **Y** Do Your Homework
- **Know your Elected Officials**
- **❸** Build Support for Your Cause
- **♥** Communicate

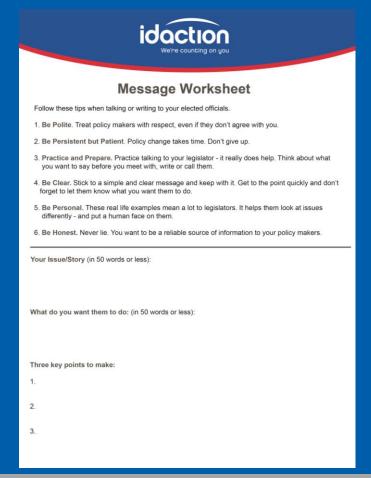
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### The most important story is yours:



- **▼** Be Clear & Concise
- **▼** Two Minute Rule
- **▼** Tell a Story
- **▼** Ask for Action
- Get to the Point
- **▼** Keep it Simple



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# How Do I Talk To My Elected Official?



- Briefly identify your issue
  - Introduce yourself
  - Put the issue into context tell a story
  - Ask for something
  - Answer & ask questions
  - Ask for your elected official's position
  - Listen carefully
  - Thank them for their time and consideration
  - Be assertive, but polite
  - Follow-Up

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#### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**



- Avoid speaking in broad terms
- Never guess or lie
- Don't be too political focus on the policy
- Never threaten
- Don't make promises you can't keep
- Never criticize other elected officials or organizations
- Keep it simple



#### Ideas to Get Started: Phone



# Decide what type of advocacy best suites YOUR personality and comfort level:

- **♥** Phone
- **Writing**
- Face to Face
- **Organizing Others**

#### **PHONE IDEAS**

- Call your elected officials.
- Call friends, family and others you know and encourage them to call, write, or meet with their legislators.
- Call Governor Branstad and encourage him to help solve the problem. 515.281.5211

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# Ideas to Get Started: Writing



Decide what type of advocacy best suites YOUR personality and comfort level:

- **♥** Phone
- **Writing**
- Face to Face
- **Organizing Others**

#### **WRITING IDEAS**

- Write a letter or e-mail your elected officials.
- Write a Letter to the Editor!
   The Des Moines Register
   Editorial Writers
   PO Box 957
   Des Moines, Iowa 50306

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#### Ideas to Get Started: Face to Face



Decide what type of advocacy best suites YOUR personality and comfort level:

- Phone
- **♥** Writing
- **▼** Face to Face
- **Organizing Others**

#### **FACE TO FACE IDEAS**

Attend local legislator forums. A complete list can be found at <a href="https://www.infonetiowa.com">www.infonetiowa.com</a>.

Invite elected officials to local events, open houses Plan a discussion with friends or just have them over for a cup of coffee.

Visit the Capitol, the Courthouse or City Hall!

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# Ideas to Get Started: Organizing Others



Decide what type of advocacy best suites YOUR personality and comfort level:

- **♥** Phone
- **W** Writing
- **♥** Face to Face
- Organizing
  Others

#### **ORGANIZING OTHERS**

Talk to your friends, family and others to build support. Ask them to call, write, or contact their elected officials.

Speak to community and civic groups.

Organize informational meetings and invite others you know.

Get others to attend the local legislative forums.

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# **Helpful Advocacy Tools**



#### ID Action - www.idaction.org

- Advocacy Toolkit
- Personal Story Videos
- Events
- ID Action Grants

#### infoNET - www.infonetiowa.com

- Bi-weekly and interim legislative news reports geared toward persons with disabilities
- Legislative Public Forum List (updated weekly)

Contact us:

Phone: 866,432,2846

Email: contactus@idaction.org

Contact us:

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Email: info@idaction.org

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# **Helpful Advocacy Tools**



## Advocacy University - www.advocacyuniversity.com

- **Education and Training Resources**
- Barrier Removal

#### Iowa Disability Vote Coalition - www.idaction.org/vote

- Candidate/Party Information
- Voter Information
- Voter Training
- Community Organizing

